

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 IO-03 SP-02 L-01

MC-01 ACDA-10 PRS-01 /053 W
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O P 291955Z JAN 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3752

AMEMBASSY RABAT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

S E C R E T ALGIERS 0231

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, SS, MO

SUBJECT: ALGERIANS REQUEST CLARIFICATION ON PROVISION US MILITARY
EQUIPMENT TO MOROCCO

1. ABERKANE, CHIEF OF NORTH AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN
DIVISION OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ASKED ME
URGENTLY TO HIS OFFICE EVENING JAN 29.

2. AFTER FORMALITIES, ABERKANE STATED THAT HE HAD
SUMMONED ME AT SPECIFIC REQUEST OF FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA.
ABERKANE SAID ALGERIANS WERE RECEIVING DISTURBING
NEWS ABOUT AMERICAN SUPPLY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO
MOROCCO.

3. HE STATED THIS NEWS CONSISTED OF:

A. RADIO LUXEMBOURG REPORT THAT AMERICAN PLANES
LANDED EVENING 28 JAN AT MILITARY SECTION OF CASABLANCA
AIRPORT AND DISCHARGED HEAVY TYPQXM-48S).

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B. REPORTS FROM SEVERAL ALGERIAN EMBASSIES ABROAD THAT INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE JUST LEFT MOROCCO CLAIM TO HAVE PERSONALLY WITNESSED UNLOADING OF HEAVY AMERICAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

4. ABERKANE STATED THAT BOUTEFLIKA WAS REQUESTING;

A. CLARIFICATION. TO WHAT EXTENT ARE SPECIFIC REPORTS TRUE? IS US CURRENTLY PROVIDING SUCH EQUIPMENT TO MOROCCANS?

B. IF WE ARE DOING SO, EXPLANATION AS TO "WHERE IT ALL FITS" IN AMERICAN POLICY.

C. IF WE ARE DOING SO, MOTIVATION BEHIND OUR ACTIONS. (WHILE B AND C APPEAR INTERRELATEDGTO US, ABERKANE WAS CLEARLY PRESENTING REUQUEST IN FORM GIVEN TO HIM BY BOUTEFLIKA.)

5. ABERKANE STATED THAT IN DISCUSSING US MILITARY DELIVERIES TO MOROCCO, WE HAD ALWAYS MADE POINT THAT THESE DELIVERIES WERE IN CONTEXT OF LONG-PLANNED MILITARY ASSISTANCE. IF THESE NEW REPORTS ARE TRUE, HE SAID, THEY REPRESENT BREAK IN PATTERN.

6. ABERKANE STRESSED THE REPORTS "VERY DISTURBING" TO ALGERIANS AND IF TRUE, "VERY SERIOUS". UP TILL NOW, HE SAID, ONLY SIGN OF US FAVORING MOROCCO HAS BEEN OUR UN VOTES, WHICH ALGERIANS REGARD AS FAR SHORT ZHBRANCES OF NEUTRALITY GIVEN BY ASST SECRETARY ATHERTON AND BY SECRETARY. THEY HOPED THESE REPORTS OF ARMS DELIVERIES WERE NOT TRUE. ABERKANE STRESSED NEED FOR URGENT RESPONSE.

7. I RESPONDED THAT I HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SUCH DELIVERIES AS HE MENTIONED, THAT I FOUND REPORTS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE, AND THAT ALGERIAN SOURCES NOT THE BEST IN WORLD, BUT THAT I WOULD SEEK RESPONSE TO ALGERIAN QUESTIONS ON URGENT BASIS AS HE
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REQUESTED.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE TO ALGERIAN CONCERNS EXPRESSED PARA 4 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

9. WHATEVER RESPONSE WE GIVE ALGERIANS TO THIS APPROACH, WE MUST ENSURE THAT IT WILL TRACK WITH RESPONSE WE PLAN TO GIVE TO THEIR REQUEST FOR

SIMILAR CLARIFICATION WHEN CURRENTLY CONTEMPLATED
FUTURE EQUIPMENT DELIVERIES TO MOROCCO BECOME
KNOWN.LYNE

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